

The POLICE BEAT



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Fall 2011

POLICE DEPARTMENT MOVES INTO NEW HEADQUARTERS



A crowd gathered outside the new Police Headquarters, at 3600 Wheeler Avenue, for the Flag Raising ceremony.



Chief of Police Earl Cook spoke during the Flag Raising Ceremony at the new Police Headquarters located at 3600 Wheeler Avenue.

On August 19, members of the Alexandria Police and surrounding agencies gathered for a Flag Raising Ceremony at the Police Department's new headquarters, located at 3600 Wheeler Avenue. This ceremony marked the first time the American flag, State flag and City of Alexandria flag were raised at the new facility.

The ceremony signaled not only the opening of the Police Department's new headquarters but the beginning of the first phase of the move into the new facility. The Police Department's move was conducted in three phases. In the first phase, three Patrol sectors, the Bike Unit, Facilities and Security Services Unit, Motors Unit, Parking Enforcement Division and School Crossing Guard Unit moved into the new headquarters. In addition, the Special

Operations Team (SOT) and Honor Guard moved all their equipment into its new storage space.

Phase two of the Department's move took place in September. During this phase, the Criminal Investigations Section, Crime Analysis Unit and Tactical Anti-Crime Unit moved into the new facility. The third phase of the move took place in October. The Chief of Police and Deputy Chiefs, Crime Scene Investigation, Fiscal/Fleet Division, Internal Investigations Unit, Public Information Office, Personnel and Training, Property and Evidence Unit, System Operations and Volunteer Unit moved into the new building during this phase.

A grand opening ceremony will be held on November 9 to celebrate the formal opening of the Police Department's new headquarters.



ALEXANDRIA CELEBRATES NATIONAL NIGHT OUT


On Tuesday, August 2, from 5:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m., City officials partnered with Alexandria Police to celebrate the 28th Annual National Night Out. The special celebration was part of a nationwide crime and drug prevention effort sponsored by the National Association of Town Watch (NATW).

To heighten awareness of crime prevention, residents in more than 27 Alexandria neighborhoods turned on their porch lights, hosted neighborhood cook-outs and sponsored block parties in support of National Night Out. Mayor William D. Euille, Acting City Manager Bruce E. Johnson, members of City Council and Chief of Police Earl Cook reaffirmed the City's commitment to fighting crime by visiting residents throughout the City.

McGruff the Crime Fighting Dog, the K-9 Unit, Bike Patrol Unit and Motor Unit toured neighborhoods and offered special demonstrations.

National Night Out, a year-long community building campaign, is designed to:

- Heighten crime prevention awareness;
- Generate support for, and participation in, local anti-crime programs;
- Strengthen neighborhood spirit and law enforcement-community partnerships;
- Send a message to criminals letting them know that neighborhoods are organized and fighting back.

"National Night Out is an opportunity for the Police Department to strengthen our relationship with the community and thank residents for their vigilance and their dedication to keeping Alexandria a safe place, to live, work and visit," said Chief Cook. 

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Chief Cook and Acting City Manager Bruce Johnson arrive at the National Night Out celebration .



McGruff, the Crime Dog, greets children at the National Night Out celebration held at the Charles Houston Recreation Center.

MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF

EARL L. COOK, CHIEF OF POLICE



As winter approaches and we enter the holiday season, I find that it is important to slow down and remember all that we are thankful for. The men and women of the Alexandria Police Department have much to be thankful for this year. As of October the entire Department had moved into its new headquarters building. This move marks the first time in eight years that all employees of the Police Department are housed together in one building. While the building in itself is beautiful, it is the sense of unity that it creates that makes it truly special. I am thankful to the City officials, residents, organizations and employees whose hard work and unwavering dedication made this new building possible.

Additionally, I would like to encourage residents to take steps to prevent crime and ensure a safe and festive holiday season. Thefts from vehicles are a continuing problem throughout the Washington Metropolitan area. Leaving electronic devices, GPS units, holiday purchases and other personal possessions in your vehicle encourages thieves. Be sure to lock your car, even if you will only be gone for a short time. Protect yourself and your vehicle by

removing all valuables and electronic devices when you exit the vehicle.

During the holiday season, many people travel to visit family and friends. Please remember to be a good neighbor. Keep an eye on the homes throughout your neighborhood and report any suspicious activity.

Taking steps to keep you and your family safe can ensure that you continue to have much to be thankful for this season. On behalf of the men and women of the Police Department I would like to thank all of the dedicated citizens and civic organizations who have spent the past year working hard to make the City a safer and more pleasant place to live and work.

Peace,

Earl L. Cook
Chief of Police

VICE PRESIDENT JOE BIDEN VISITS THE ALEXANDRIA POLICE DEPARTMENT

On September 29, Vice President Biden visited the Alexandria Police Department's new headquarters, located at 3600 Wheeler Avenue.

During his visit, Vice President Biden delivered remarks about the American Jobs Act. The Act would help keep police officers and first responders on the beat in northern Virginia and across the country. Vice President Biden also congratulated the Police Department for being awarded a Community-Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Hiring Program grant.

It was announced on Wednesday, September 28, that the Police Department was awarded an \$800,000 COPS grant. The money from this grant will enable the Department to add four officers to the Patrol Operations Bureau.

COPS Hiring Program grants are designed to advance public safety through community policing by addressing the full-time sworn officer needs of state, local, and tribal law enforcement agencies nationwide. The grants provide funds directly to law enforcement agencies to hire new and/or rehire career law enforcement officers, and to increase their community policing capacity and crime prevention efforts.



Captain William Johnson and Deputy Chief Blaine Corle talk with Vice President Biden following his speech.



Chief Cook gave media interviews following the Vice President's speech.



OFFICER CARL WORTHAM NAMED KIWANIS CLUB'S OFFICER OF THE YEAR

On August 11, Officer Carl Wortham was honored as the Kiwanis Club's Officer of the Year. He was presented with his award during a luncheon at the Sheraton Suites, located on North St. Asaph Street.

During the past year, Officer Wortham contacted Charles Barrett Elementary School and asked to be considered as a mentor for children at risk for gang recruitment. As a result, he has spent a large amount of time mentoring an eleven year old boy. Officer Wortham visits the child at home and visits with the child's family. He takes him on field trips to places the child might not have been able to attend, such as Bowl America and the Natural History Museum. He also occasionally stops by Charles Barrett Elementary School and eats lunch with his mentee and other students.

Officer Wortham spends a large portion of his personal time and expense mentoring. He continually displays a positive image of the Police Department to his mentee and the community.



Officer Carl Wortham was presented with an Officer of the Year award at the Kiwanis Club luncheon on August 11.

Officer Wortham explains the dangers of gang involvement. As a result, he has provided the child with an alternative to gang participation.



CRIME SCENE INVESTIGATOR GARRY GROUND RETIRES

On August 1, Crime Scene Investigator Garry Ground retired after 33 years of dedicated service to the Alexandria Police Department.

Garry began his service with the Police Department on July 27, 1978. For most of his career he worked in the Crime Scene Investigations Section (CSI). Garry was instrumental in helping advance the technical capabilities of the Police Department. Over the years, he was involved in the selection and implementation of advanced technology. His biggest project was transitioning the Department from analog to digital photography. At the time, very few police departments were working with digital photography. Garry saw the positive aspects of it and took the lead on the project. Today the Police Department uses digital exclusively.

Garry was known throughout the City for his exceptional photography skills. On a regular basis he would assume responsibility to be the lead



Crime Scene Investigator Garry Ground poses with the member of the Crime Scene Investigation Section during his retirement luncheon on July 26.

photographer at City events. For his motivation, dedication and exceptional service he was awarded 39 commendations during his career. Though Garry has left the Department, his legacy and impact on the City of Alexandria will never be forgotten.



OFFICERS RUGGIERO AND KRAMARIK NAMED FINALISTS FOR HERMAN GOLDSTEIN AWARD

Alexandria police officers Nicholas Ruggiero and Matthew Kramarik were named as finalists for The Herman Goldstein Award, an international award which recognizes innovative, successful law enforcement solutions to crime. They were one of eight finalists out of hundreds of submissions. The winner was named during the 22nd Annual Problem-Oriented Policing Conference in Miami, Florida.

In 2010, Officers Ruggiero and Kramarik noticed that an increasing number of mopeds were being stolen from Sector 2. They decided to take action. The officers learned that the department had many unused Glock handgun locks that had been donated from a government program. The officers requested these locks and were given 1,000 to give to residents with mopeds. They hoped residents would use these locks to prevent thefts.

As Officers Ruggiero and Kramarik handed out the locks to the community, they began compiling a database to monitor and register the mopeds in Sector 2. They numbered each lock and collected



Officer Ruggiero records the information from a moped. The information will be entered into a database used to identify stolen mopeds.

the mopeds Vehicle Identification Number (VIN), make, model, color and the name and address of the owner.

Their database has already proven itself to be a great resource for the department. Officers were able to locate the victim of a stolen



POLICE DEPARTMENT PARTICIPATES IN SEPTEMBER 11 CEREMONY

On September 9, Mayor William D. Euille, Fire Chief Adam Thiel, Police Chief Earl Cook, Sheriff Dana Lawhorne, and the City of Alexandria's public safety departments hosted a joint memorial service honoring the sacrifice of our nation's first responders in the aftermath of the attacks on September 11, 2001.

Due to the inclement weather, the ceremony was held at City Hall in the second-floor Council Chambers. The purpose of the event was to give thanks and pay tribute to those in the community and in uniform who responded on 9-11 without fear, acted without hesitation, and gave their lives to save others.

Employees from Fire, Police, and the Sheriff's Office participated in a special ceremony, "Return to Quarters," in which a commemorative "ringing of the bell" was conducted with the traditional 5-5-5-5-5 code that has been used by firefighters since 1870 to signal the loss of a colleague. The ceremony also



Officer Richard Magnum salutes after ringing the bell five times during the September 11 ceremony held at City Hall on September 9.

featured a Community Tribute featuring students from T.C. Williams High School.



CRIME SCENE INVESTIGATION UNIT ACQUIRES NEW VAN

In July 2011, the Alexandria Police Department acquired a new addition to their fleet, a dedicated Crime Scene Investigations (CSI) support vehicle. The vehicle is equipped with all the latest in forensic technology to aid Crime Scene investigators at major crime scenes. Some of the forensic equipment the vehicle is outfitted with includes; a variety of high intensity lights to illuminate large areas and portable lights for use in remote areas, metal detectors used to search for bullets and shell casings, alternate light source equipment (lasers) for detecting fingerprints, casting material for preserving foot and tire impressions, a variety of fingerprint processing equipment and supplies for the recovery of latent fingerprints, DNA collection devices including refrigeration units, photographic equipment, and on board computers equipped with crime scene diagramming software. In addition, one computer has a large LCD television in which investigators can display diagrams and photographs of physical evidence to decision makers at the scene such as the incident commander and the Commonwealth's Attorney so they can make informed decisions without having to enter the scene.

The new CSI major crime scene support vehicle made its debut at this year's National Night Out on August 2, 2011. At every stop it was a big hit. The vehicle was driven by Investigators Colantuoni and Taylor who got a chance to speak with City residents one on one and discuss the CSI vehicle. The vehicle helped the two Investigators foster



In July 2011, the Police Department acquired a dedicated Crime Scene Investigations support vehicle. The vehicle is equipped with the latest in forensic technology.

positive community relations.

The acquisition of this specialized vehicle was possible due to federal grant funding at no cost to the City. It was crafted by Farber Specialty Vehicles, a worldwide leader in the specialty vehicle industry. This is not the Department's first vehicle purchased from Farber. With the high quality workmanship we have come to expect from Farber, the vehicle will serve the City of Alexandria and our investigative staff for a long time.



The new van is equipped with the latest technology to aid Crime Scene Investigators.

SERGEANT JOHN GREGG RETIRES

On August 1, Sergeant John Gregg retired after 25 years of distinguished service with the Alexandria Police Department.

Sergeant Gregg began his career in the Patrol Operations Bureau as a patrol officer. He became a Field Training Officer where he guided new police officers after they graduated from the Police Academy. He also served as a Bicycle Team member. Sergeant Gregg was promoted to sergeant and remained in the Patrol Operations Bureau where he served as a Patrol Supervisor. He completed his career serving as a Crime Scene Investigator in the Crime Scene Investigation Section.

Sergeant Gregg served as one of the founding members of the Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) team. He served as the Team Leader for several years. Sergeant Gregg used his experience from CISM to assist other City and law enforcement agencies whenever needed after traumatic events. He also volunteered as a peer counselor and facilitator during Police Week each year.



Sergeant John Gregg is presented with a plaque from the Crime Scene Investigation Section during his retirement luncheon.

We thank Sergeant Gregg for his years of service and wish him luck in his retirement.



SERGEANT WENDY MARIS RETIRES

Sergeant Wendy Maris retired on October 1 after 33 years of dedicated service to the Alexandria Police Department.

Sergeant Maris began her career on September 22, 1978 as a police officer in the Patrol Operations Bureau. She worked as a police officer until 1983 when she was promoted to corporal. She served as a corporal in patrol until she was promoted to sergeant in 1996. From 1996 to 2008, she served as a sergeant in patrol where she supervised officers in her assigned beat.

In 2008, Sergeant Maris was transferred to the Office of the Chief of Police. She served as the Chief's Aide until her retirement.

The men and women of the Alexandria Police Department would like to thank Sergeant Maris for her many years of dedicated service and wish her luck as she begins this new phase of her life.



Chief Cook presents Sergeant Wendy Maris with a plaque at her retirement luncheon at Clyde's Restaurant on September 23.

SCHOOL CROSSING GUARDS HONORED BY COMMUNITY PRAISE CENTER SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH

On June 4, School Crossing Guards Tuesdae Fuller and Ella Courtney were honored at the Community Praise Center (CPC) Seventh Day Adventist Church for their courage and commitment to ensuring the safety of the City's children.

Each year, CPC Adult Sabbath School Ministry honors individuals who provide services to residents within or near the surrounding church community. Ms. Fuller and Ms. Courtney ensure the safety of children crossing the street on their way to and from school on a daily basis. Sabbath school leaders and Pastor Henry Wright presented Fuller and Courtney with *You Make a Difference* awards in recognition of their dedication and selfless service.

In 2004, Tuesdae Fuller was faced with a critical career choice: become a school crossing guard or become a Metro bus driver. After interviewing for both opportunities, she accepted the crossing guard position and has been employed with the City of Alexandria for the past 8 years serving students of Maury Elementary School. For Ms. Fuller, the decision was not a difficult one; she chose the flexibility of being a crossing guard over long hours of driving between bus stations.

Ms. Fuller's duties as a school crossing guard bookend her workday. From 7:15 a.m. to 8:10 a.m. and from 2:25 p.m. to 3:05 p.m., she controls traffic at the intersection of Commonwealth and Oak Streets, allowing school children and other pedestrians to cross the street safely. In between these hours, Ms. Fuller shuttles her three children to school, works at a funeral home, and attends classes at the University of the District of Columbia where she is studying Mortuary Science.

Twelve years ago, Ella Courtney retired from the federal government after 31 ½ years with the Department of Defense. Ms. Courtney loves being outdoors, she loves children, and she is energized by people, so after researching post-retirement employment opportunities, she felt that a career as a

school crossing guard would be a perfect fit. And it has been. For the last 12 years, Ms. Courtney has worked at Russell and Oak Streets, escorting neighborhood children, who have included her own grandchildren, safely to Maury Elementary School. According to Ms. Courtney, just being able to get up every morning to help neighborhood children is what she loves most about her job.



School Crossing Guard (SCG) Supervisor Rose McKall poses with SCG Ella Courtney and Tuesdae Fuller during a ceremony on June 4.



School Crossing Guard Ella Courtney guides a school bus during dismissal on June 17.

* article information and ceremony picture courtesy of Joanne Hutchinson

ALEXANDRIA POLICE YOUTH CAMP CHRISTMAS TREE SALE

It's that time of year again. With Christmas approaching, the Alexandria Police Youth Camp will begin selling Christmas trees on November 30. The trees are set up at Union Station, 101 Callahan Drive. Hours are Monday through Friday from 5:00 p.m. to 8 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday from 10:00 a.m. to 8 p.m. This year, the APYC will be selling Fraiser Firs and Douglas Firs ranging in size from 5'0" through more than 10'0". Prices start at \$45 and go up to \$130. There will also be a limited number of 12 inch wreaths available for \$20 each. All the money raised is used to help send Alexandria kids to camp!

This is the Camp's largest fundraiser and has been for the past 18 years. The trees are purchased from a tree farm in Pennsylvania and are shipped to Alexandria. Sales continue until all of the trees are sold. In the past this takes approximately two weeks. Volunteers are needed to assist with the selling of the trees.

The Alexandria Police Youth Camp was started in 1947 and is operated every summer by the YMCA



Sergeant Stafford Farmer-Lee saws a tree for a customer at the Alexandria Police Youth Camp's Christmas Tree Sale.

in Northern Neck as it's own branch, Camp Kekoka. As a result of its partnership with the YMCA, the camp has continued to grow. In 2011, 125 kids were sent to camp from Alexandria with at least partial scholarships.



PART 1 CRIME STATISTICS

OFFENSE	2010	2011	% CHANGE
Homicide	2	0	-100.00%
Rape	18	16	-11.11
Robbery	93	95	2.15
Aggravated Assault	93	95	2.15
Burglary	227	228	0.44
Larceny	2,129	2,066	-2.96
Auto Theft	214	290	35.51
Total	2,776	2,790	0.50%

*Crime statistics are for the period of January 1 through September 30, 2011, and are compared to the same period of the previous year. The numbers in the chart are raw and unverified. They are not the final crime statistic values for 2011 and may be changed by our review process.

POLICE DEPARTMENT IN ACTION

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT



Sheriff Dana Lawhorne, Acting City Manager Bruce Johnson and Chief Earl Cook talk with a U.S. Marshal during the National Night Out celebrations.



The first shift to attend roll call in the Police Department's new headquarters poses for a picture outside the new building.



K-9 Officer Kyle Russel and K-9 Officer Carlos Rolon took their dogs to various community events during National Night Out.



Residents take a look inside the Department's new Crime Scene Investigation (CSI) van.



The Honor Guard raises the flags during a Flag Raising Ceremony on August 19. This was the first time flags had been raised at the Police Department's new headquarters.

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ALEXANDRIA POLICE DEPARTMENT MISSION AND VALUES

The mission of the Alexandria Police Department is to provide competent, courteous, professional and community-oriented police services. We are committed to maintaining and enhancing a strong and productive partnership with the community to continue to reduce crime and improve the quality of life in all of Alexandria's neighborhoods. We are dedicated to protecting life and property while assuring fair and equal treatment to everyone.

Central to the Department's mission are the values that guide its work and decisions.

We, the men and women of the Alexandria Police Department, value:

- Human Life
- Dignity
- Integrity
- Laws and Constitution
- Excellence
- Accountability
- Cooperation
- Problem-solving
- Ourselves

The Alexandria Police Department honors its family fighting for our country overseas: Ji Tam

2011 RETIREMENTS

Bruni Confesi-Toro
Thomas Durkin
John Gregg
Garry Ground
Jesse Harman
Kim Hendrick
Peyton Jones
Wendy Maris

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